



# VIP2VIP



Season 13, Volume 1 (mini shutdown edition) Big Bend National Park's Volunteer Newsletter

October 21, 2013

## **Current Volunteers (and those drifting in during the month)**

### **Persimmon Gap Visitor Center**

Leonard & Sally Timm-Visitor Center (1st)

### **Chisos Basin**

Bill & Patti Marvin-Camphosts (4th)

Kenn & Linda Sutton-Camphosts (7th)

Ken & Vicky Conway-Visitor Center (1st)

David England-Visitor Center (1st) (Oct. 21)

John & Cyndee Perry - Visitor Center (Oct. 28)

### **Panther Junction**

Elaine & John Jonker-River Rangers (7th)

Joan Spalding-ScRM (Oct. 25)

Mike Garr-ScRM (1st) Oct. 1-Oct. 31

### **Castolon**

Mark Schuler-Maintenance-Oct. 24-Nov. 10

### **Rio Grande Village**

Wayne & Claudia Nicholson-Camphost (Oct. 21)

Jep Robertson-Camphost (Oct. 21)

### **Part-time**

Reine Wonite-Interpretation

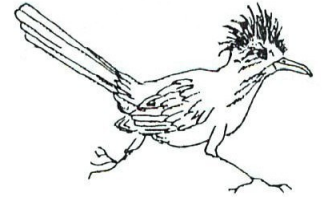
Stacy Sirotnak-ScRM

Heather Rickleff - ScRM

Mark Williams-VaRP

Laurie Meadows-VaRP

## **National Public Lands Day**



There were two schools of thought on the rain during Big Bend's National Public Lands Day, September 28th.

Stay dry and see if it quits  
(those are raindrops on my  
lens)....



Or just get on with it!

The Friends of Big Bend joined with park staff and volunteers to tackle several project at Chisos Basin. The most successful, but undoubtedly the wettest group cleared chunks of asphalt from the path to the amphitheater. Kudos to all for their perseverance and great teamwork!



National Public Lands Day cont.

Students from Sul Ross University and San Antonio College were having problems of their own with the rain. They were in search of what turned out to be the elusive Dragonfly Larvae for a study on mercury contamination. The rain muddied the water and caused all the Dragonfly Larvae to run for cover!



Dragonfly larvae are currently being sampled for mercury levels in national parks. Mercury is a toxic pollutant that can harm human and wildlife health, threatening the natural resources the NPS is charged with protecting. The main source of human-caused mercury in remote national park environments is atmospheric deposition from coal-burning power plants.

The larval stage of the dragonfly lives in the water, and individuals are collected from river or lake bottoms with nets. Dragonflies spend most of their life in the larval form

and eventually morph to the fast-flying aerial predator in the adult phase.

This project engages citizen scientists such as students and visitors in national parks to collect dragonfly larvae from distinct sampling sites. Learn more about this study at

[http://www.nature.nps.gov/air/Studies/air\\_toxics/dragonfly/index.cfm](http://www.nature.nps.gov/air/Studies/air_toxics/dragonfly/index.cfm)

A larvae was discovered at Rio Grande Village, unfortunately it was the wrong species! As Leslie Hopper, the Adelante Tejas Project Director at the Rio Grande Research Center said, "Oh Odonata: anisoptera (Dragonfly Larvae) Where Art Thou?". Not in the Beaver Pond at Rio Grande Village on Sept. 28, that was for sure!



The students pose for a group photo.

## **We had (and still have!) some great volunteers here this summer!**

From May until the end of July **Andre and Laura Audette** volunteered at Chisos Basin Visitor Center. This was their first time volunteering at a national park and they really embraced the experience! They retired early from teaching and accounting to devote themselves to volunteering and seeing the national parks for the next 5-10 years. Lucky for us, Big Bend was their first stop!

**Rick and Debbie Trimble** helped out at the Chisos Basin Campground from May 1-June 6. This was their second summer volunteer stint at Big Bend and they headed on to Great Sand Dunes for the rest of the summer. **Paul Bloom** returned for another 6 weeks at the Basin Campground ... no mountain lions in the bathroom to report this year! **Ed Brettel** also volunteered for two months at the Chisos Basin Campground.

The second string arrived on August 1—**Tim and Vicky Conway** from Marathon manning the visitor center and old pros, **Bill and Patti Marvin** and **Kenn and Linda Sutton** at the campground. Many thanks to everyone for your time and energy!

## **Planned Community Room Gallery**

The walls of the Community Room are soon to become an art gallery and your photo could be among the artwork shown. This will be an opportunity to show the beauty of Big Bend to staff, visitors and guests of the park. Submit your photographs for consideration by **Friday, November 8th** to Jennette Jurado. Include the artist's name and title of picture. Event contact: [Jennette\\_Jurado@nps.gov](mailto:Jennette_Jurado@nps.gov) or 432-477-1109

### **Submission Guidelines:**

Submit up to 5 photos in each of two categories:

- 1) landscape (ex: Del Carmen sunset, Chisos Mountains, South Rim vista)
- 2) Single resource (ex: bear, bird, stars, flower, cactus spine, etc.)

Submissions should be 8x10 prints on photo paper. Consider the kiosks at TruValue, Walmart, home printer, or online (shutterfly, snapfish). Printing usually runs \$1-3 each.

Enter submissions **by Friday, November 8**, including artist's name and title of picture.

Community members (NPS, VIPS, CBP, Forever Resorts, SVISD and families) are welcome to submit.

Photo viewing will take place at the **Casa Grande Gallery Gala on November 13th**. Everyone will have a chance to vote for their favorite photos. Pictures will remain in the Community Room for a few days after, allowing additional time for voting. The

## Events in the Area

**October 21-31 Seasonal and VIP Orientation begins.**

**October 23—Wednesday, 7 pm Party at Claudia's House - 226 Bobcat Loop.**  
There will be the punch, beer, sodas. Bring a snack to share if you want. There will be a fire. Everyone is invited.

**October 26- Marathon2Marathon—Marathon, Texas** This race from Ft. Stockton to Marathon began in 2003 and has been growing every year. It is a sanctioned and certified race. For more information go to: [marathon2marathon.net](http://marathon2marathon.net)

**October 31— Community Halloween** (children will be out and about for Trick or Treat) and Adult events in Terlingua (at La Kiva).

**November 1-3—Chili Cookoff**—47th Annual Terlingua International Chili Championship Cookoff; for more information go to [www.chili.org/terlingua](http://www.chili.org/terlingua) or call 210-877-8827.

**November 2—Day of the Dead Celebration—**Terlingua Ghosttown in the evening.

**November 9 –Rio River Cleanup** Once again we will be sponsoring the Rio River Cleanup in conjunction with Big Bend State Park. Details are still being worked out, but one or two sections of the river within Big Bend National Park will be tackled. This is an all day event and involves digging tires out the river bottom, thrashing through cane looking for plastic bottles and aluminum cans and otherwise having lots of fun. Reservations to secure a place in a canoe are required and can be made through the volunteer office (Jane\_Brown@nps.gov or 432-477-1106).



Our hard-working volunteers from the 2012 Rio River

[illegible]